

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04

OC-06 CCO-00 SAM-01 SCCT-02 NIC-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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O R 301136Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0653

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USCINCEUR

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4198

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PO PINS MILI

SUBJ: SITREP

SITREP 4 AS OF 1000 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 30

1. IN ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES LISBON APPEARS COMPLETELY NORMAL TODAY WITH TRAFFIC FLOWING SMOOTHLY, SHOPS OPEN, AND NO SIGNS OF SPECIAL MILITARY VIGILANCE. NO ROADBLOCKS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL THIS MORNING. LAST NIGHT, COPCON COMMANDER BRIG. OTELO DE CARVALHO APPEALED TO CIVILIANS MANNING LAST NIGHT'S BARRICADES TO DEPART AND LEAVE JOB TO MILITARY, WHICH HAD THE SITUATION COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL.

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2. DURING THE LATE EVENING OF SEPT 29 WE WERE INFORMED

BY MILITARY AIDE OF GEN COSTA GOMES THAT THREE MEMBERS OF JUNTA, GEN GALVAO DE MELO, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF SILVEIRO MARQUES, AND AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF NETO HAD BEEN FORCED OFF THE JUNTA. THIS INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED OFFICIALLY BUT WAS CARRIED IN O SECULO AND RADIO THIS MORNING.

3. PERSON IDENTIFYING SELF AS "JOTA" AND CLAIMING TO BE FRIEND OF GALVAO DE MELO CALLED AMBASSADOR AT 0500 THIS MORNING AND ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD GIVE ASYLUM TO GALVAO DE MELO. HE SAID GALVAO DE MELO WAS IN SHERATON HOTEL SURROUNDED BY TROOPS WHO WERE INTENT ON KILLING HIM. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT WE COULD HARDLY PROVIDE ASYLUM IF GALVAO DE MELO HELD IN HOTEL. JOTA CALLED BACK AT 0630 AND SAID THAT GALVAO DE MELO WAS NOW IN TANK OUTSIDE HOTEL AND "THE COMMUNISTS HAD PREVAILED". WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE GALVAO DE MELO IS RIGHT NOW, BUT ONE REPORT HAS HIM NOT ARRESTED BUT RATHER UNDER THE PROTECTIVE CUSTODY OF COPCON.

4. GENERAL SPINOLA IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT 1100 THIS MORNING. A RELIABLE NEWSPAPER SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF AT 0040 IN MORNING THAT SPINOLA WILL ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION IN SPEECH. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ANTUNES WOULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER.

5. LOCAL DIPS ARE UP IN ARMS OVER TREATMENT RECEIVED AT THE ROADBLOCKS YESTERDAY. SPANISH AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS VISITED AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO COMPLAIN THAT THEIR MIL ATTACHES HAD BEEN ALL BUT MANHANDLED AT ROADBLOCKS, WHERE THEIR VEHICLES WERE COMPLETELY SEARCHED. BRITISH AMBASSADOR IS APOPLECTIC OVER THREE TIMES THAT HE WAS STOPPED AND PLANS TO LODGE PROTEST WITH DEAN OF DIP CORPS. DCM WAS STOPPED AT DOOR OF EMBASSY AT 0520 THIS MORNING BY INDIVIDUAL IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WHO PRODUCED MILICIANO (RESERVIST) IDENTITY CARD AND INSISTED ON DCM OPENING BRIEFCASE. WHEN ASKED TO PRODUCE ORDERS UNDER WHICH HE OPERATING, MILICIANO SAID THAT HE HAD ORDERS ORALLY. AFTER APPROPRIATE PROTESTATIONS DCM OPENED

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BAG, MILICIANO TOOK A PERFUNCTORY LOOK INSIDE AND ALLOWED DCM TO ENTER EMBASSY. MILICIANO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO COMPANIONS AND THERE WERE ABOUT SIX MORE ON MEDIAN IN FRONT OF EMBASSY, ALL INCIVILIAN CLOTHES. EMBASSY WILL MAKE APPROPRIATE REMONSTRATIONS WITH GOP IN CONCERT WITH BRITS AND OTHER DIPS.

6. TWO RIGHT WING POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED

BY MILITARY FORCES SINCE FRIDAY SEPT 27. THE LISBON HEADQUARTERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY WAS BROKEN INTO SATURDAY AFTERNOON BY SOLDIERS AND MEMBERS OF THE OFFICE WORKERS UNION WHO ALLEGEDLY DISCOVERED "REACTIONARY PROPAGANDA" AND ONE PISTOL. ALSO SUPPOSEDLY FOUND WAS A COPY OF A SPEECH THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SILENT MAJORITY WERE TO HAVE DELIVERED EULOGIZING SPINOLA AT SATURDAY'S RALLY. IN OPORTO AN ENRAGED MOB SACKED THE LIBERAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND DESTROYED FURNITURE, DOCUMENTS, AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT FOUND INSIDE. BY THE TIME POLICE FORCES ARRIVED, THE MOB HAD BURNED UP MOST OF WHAT THEY FOUND INSIDE.

7. THE OTHER PARTY WHICH HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY MOBS IS THE PARTIDO DE PROGRESSO, WHOSE OPORTO HEADQUARTERS WAS SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BY POLICE AT THE COST OF 7 WOUNDED SATURDAY AT 1830 LOCAL. POLICE OPENED FIRE ON THE CROWD DURING THE MELEE AND ONE PERSON WAS WOUNDED IN THE THIGH. THREE OF THOSE INJURED WERE POLICE.

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8. THE OFFICE OF ANOTHER RIGHT-WING ORGANIZATION WAS BROKEN INTO SATURDAY. TROOPS OF THE 5TH CAVALRY BATTALION OCCUPIED THE OFFICES OF THE JOURNAL BANDARRA WHICH THEY SEARCHED -- FINDING NOTHING -- AND THEN CLOSED WITH A FIVE-MAN GUARD.

9. OUR CONSUL IN OPORTO REPORTS HEARING A NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT PASSING OVER THE CITY AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 30. HE WENT TO THE AIRPORT WHERE HE OBSERVED AN AIRCRAFT WITH RED TAIL MARKINGS WHICH APPEARED TO BE A TROOP TRANSPORT. HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY TROOPS DEBARKING HOWEVER. IN TOTAL HE ESTIMATES SOME DOZEN PLANES LANDED AND TOOK OFF AT APPROXIMATELY 15-MINUTE INTERVALS.

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10. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF ARMS BEING DISCOVERED ENROUTE TO LISBON INCLUDING A HEARSE FULL OF WEAPONS DISCOVERED ON THE SALAZAR BRIDGE (OR AT VILA FRANCA, DEPENDING ON WHOM YOU ARE LISTENING TO). PRESS AND RADIO HAVE BEEN CREDITING THESE STORIES IN INFLAMMATORY FASHION. WE HAVE SEEN NOTHING CONCRETE WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO THESE TALES, AND ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE SPURIOUS.

11. PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES ADDRESSED NATION 0030 SEPT 30. THEME OF 19-MINUTE SPEECH DELIVERED WITHOUT TEXT WAS THAT AFM (ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT) WITH HELP OF POPULAR FORCES, HAD STEMMED FIRST FULL-FLEDGED REACTIONARY ATTACK ON APRIL 25 MOVEMENT. PM SAID REACTIONARIES WERE GOING TO USE PROPOSED PRO-SPINOLA DEMONSTRATION ON SEPT 28 TO CREATE CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE, AND THEN DEMAND INTERVENTION BY SECURITY FORCES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE UNITY OF PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES. GONCALVES BECAME VERY EMOTIONAL AND AGITATED WHEN STATING THAT AFM OWES NO ALLEGIANCE TO POLITICAL PARTIES EVEN THOUGH IT IS PLEDGED TO DEFEND THEM. PRIME MINISTER STRESSED NEED TO AVOID BLOODSHED AND CIVIL WAR AND WARNED THAT REACTIONARIES HAD SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT POLITICAL IMMATUREITY OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. GONCALVES ALSO EQUATED REACTIONARY FORCES TO PARTICIPANTS IN MOZAMBIQUE UPRISING.

12. A MOVIMENTO DE ESQUERDA SOCIALIST HANDOUT WITH GOOD

BIT OF CORRECT INFORMATION ON RECENT EVENTS ALSO STATES
THAT COUNCIL OF STATE DECIDED YESTERDAY TO CREATE A
COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION, COMPOSED OF 160 MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES, WHICH WOULD SERVE AS THE MAXIMUM DIRECTIVE
ORGAN OF THE STATE. HANDOUT ALSO STATES THAT THE
COORDINATING COMMISSION OF THE AFM HAD BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED
BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE.
SCOTT

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